



# ***NEWS RELEASE***

## **MISSISSIPPI DISTRICT OFFICE**

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### **BRYAN HAWKINS NAMED 2003 MISSISSIPPI SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR BY SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

**JACKSON, MS** – Mr. Bryan Hawkins, President of Hawkeye Industries, Inc. has been selected as the Mississippi Small Business Person of the Year for 2003 by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

Mr. Hawkins will be honored, along with other award and state advocate winners, on Wednesday, June 25th at an awards luncheon at the Ramada Inn Convention Center in Tupelo, MS. Registration is 11:00 a.m. and the ceremony begins promptly at 11:30 a.m. Keynote speaker, William (Bill) Hudson, Jr., President and CEO of Hudson Salvage, Inc. will join SBA District Director Janita R. Stewart and other industry leaders, federal officials, and local representatives in congratulating the winners. Small business advocates and entrepreneurs are invited and encouraged to attend the event as support for the winners and Mississippi's small business community. Other SBA award recipients to be recognized are:

#### **Financial Services Advocate**

John Byers  
Three Rivers Planning and Development District  
Pontotoc, MS

#### **Small Business Exporter**

James H. Finley, President/CEO  
Craft-Co Enterprises, Inc.  
Morton, MS

#### **Minority Small Business Advocate**

Gennie Lacy Jones  
Jackson, MS

#### **Veteran Small Business Advocate**

Charles E. Burnham, Executive Director  
Mississippi State Veterans Affairs Board  
Pearl, MS

#### **Outstanding Contributions to Disaster Recovery**

U. S. Congressman Roger Wicker  
Tupelo, MS

#### **Women in Business Advocate**

Ruby Del Harden, Owner  
Sprint Print; S.N.A.P.; Red Bay News;  
RESULTS, Inc.; and Itawamba Die Cutting  
Tupelo, MS

#### **Small Business Journalist**

Arnold Lindsay  
The Clarion Ledger  
Jackson, MS

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Mr. Hawkins is among 53 top small business persons -- from each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands, and Guam -- who will be honored by the SBA at national ceremonies in Washington, D.C. later this year. As winner of the Mississippi Small Business Person of the Year 2003 award, Mr. Hawkins will represent Mississippi businesses during the national ceremonies and vie for the opportunity to be named the 2003 National Small Business Person of the Year.

It's not too early to think about nominations for Small Business Week 2004. Nominations for SBA small business awards may be submitted by any individual or organization dedicated to the support of the small business community, including trade or professional associations and business organizations. The nomination process begins in September of each year.

If you would like to learn more about Small Business Week, the nomination process or to nominate someone for Small Business Person of the Year 2004, call the SBA Gulfport Branch Office at (228) 863-4449, ext. 14.